

News Release

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Contact: Kevin Quinn (402) 221-3908/3913

CHAAP base support operations funding extended through current fiscal year

Omaha, Neb.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha District announced today that funding has been received to resume land sales at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant (CHAAP) near Grand Island, Neb.

Operations had to be cut back to the minimum at the end of 2002 due to lack of funding. The plant office was closed and the employee reassigned to other projects on Dec. 31. The dollars remaining were sufficient to finalize pending real estate actions – negotiations for approximately 975 acres with the Southern Pubic Power District (SPPD) and the six-acre tower site with Hall County.

Environmental cleanup of properties (including explosive safety) also remained on schedule. Environmental projects are funded by sales revenue and out-grants.

"We are pleased to report that funds are now in hand to move forward with additional land transfers," says Omaha's Acting Deputy District Engineer William D. Mulligan. Negotiations will continue with DTE Rail Services for the purchase of the CHAAP rail facilities and other land and improvements, as well as negotiating terms with the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for purchase of the loadlines.

"We certainly recognize the importance of the CHAAP projects to the community and appreciate the support we have received from our local partners during these uncertain times. We're hopeful that funding will continue for the out-years and we'll be able to keep these projects on track," adds Mulligan.